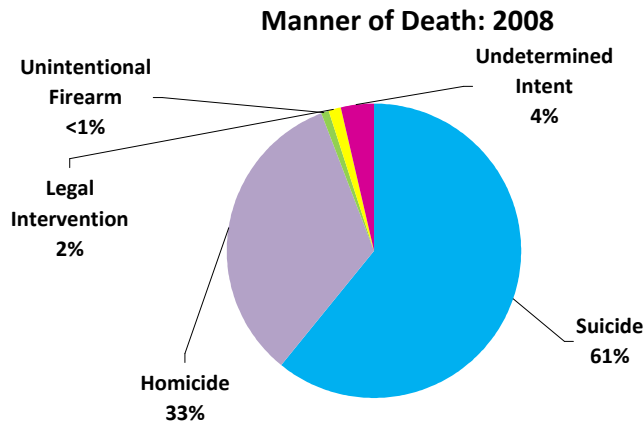


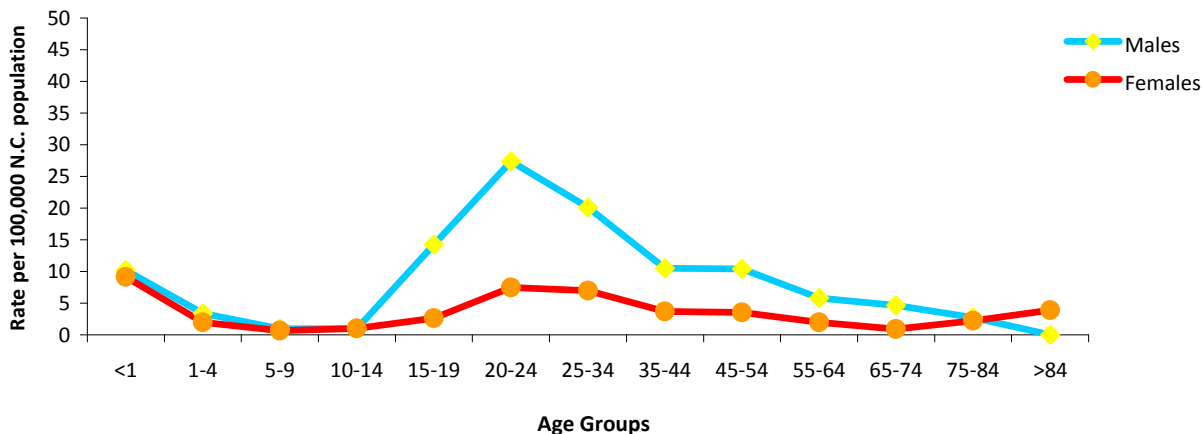
HOMICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in N.C. resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes 2008 homicides among N.C. residents.



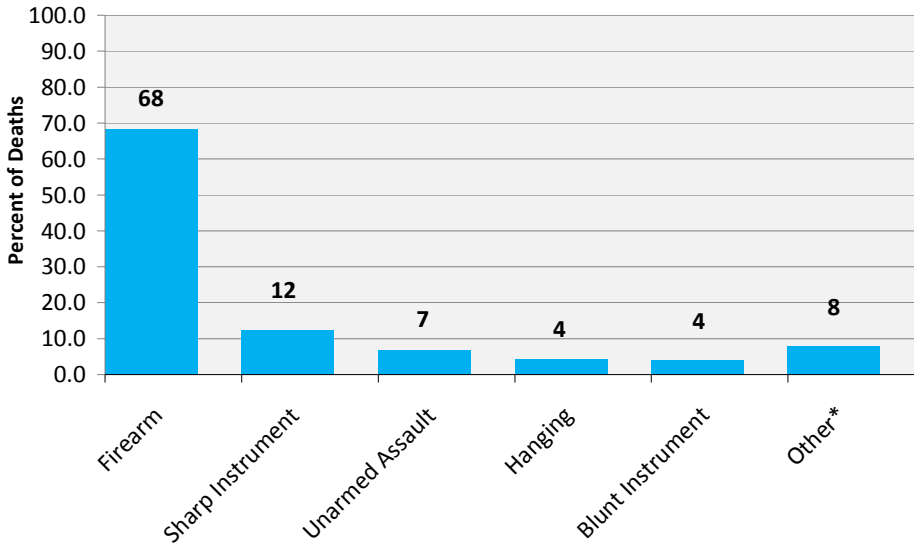
- Six hundred twenty-seven North Carolina residents died as a result of homicide in 2008.
- The total number of deaths as a result of violence was 1,884. There were 1,148 suicides (61 %), 627 homicides (33 %), 14 unintentional firearm deaths (<1 %), 28 deaths from legal interventions (2 %), and 67 deaths of undetermined intent (4 %).

Homicide Rates (per 100,000 N.C. Population) Stratified by Age Group and Gender: 2008



- Two important spikes in homicide rates were observed when the rates were graphed by age group. A small peak was seen in children under age 1 and a larger peak was seen in victims 20-24 years of age. This was especially true for males in this age group. The rate of homicide is about four times greater for males than females 15-24 years of age.
- Homicide patterns differed by race; a total of 305 N.C. homicide victims were black, constituting 51 percent of all homicide victims. Although whites composed three-fourths (74 %) of the total population, they accounted for 44 percent of homicides (291 deaths). The rate of homicide for blacks was 15.0, compared to a rate of 4.2 per 100,000 N.C. residents for whites. American Indians also had a higher rate of homicide (18.3 per 100,000 N.C. residents) for 22 deaths.

Method of Death: 2008

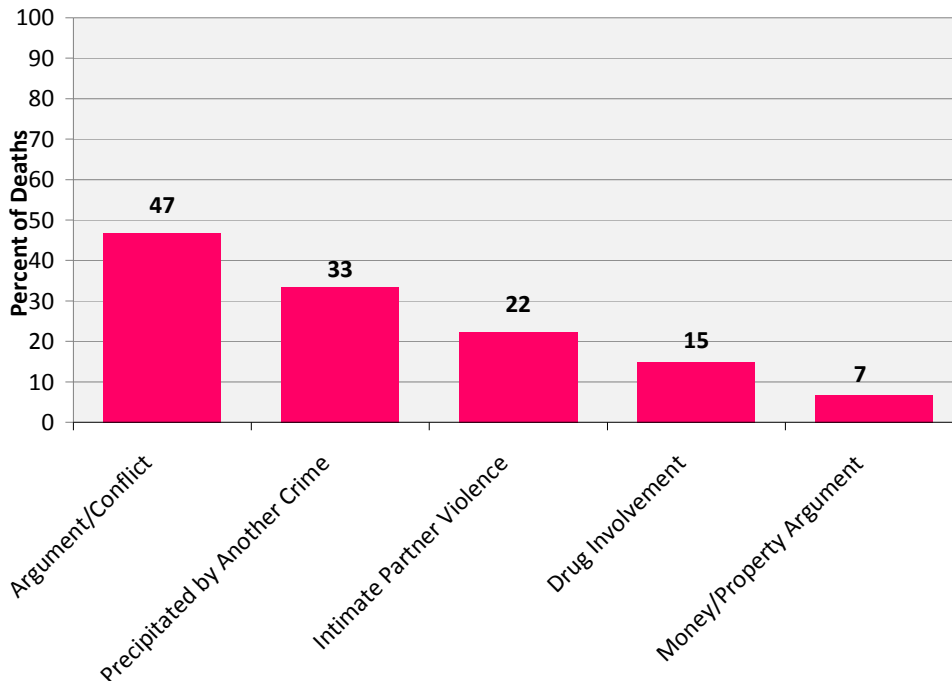


*Other includes violent shaking, fire/burns, motor vehicle, multiple methods, poisoning, fall, unknown method, and other causes of death.

- Firearms were used in 68 percent of homicides; sharp instruments were used in 12 percent.

- The remaining methods were each used less than 10 percent of the time.

Circumstances* of Homicide: 2008



- Argument, abuse, or conflict unrelated to intimate partner violence (IPV) was noted as a contributing factor in almost 50 percent of homicides with reported circumstances.

- Thirty-three percent of homicides were precipitated by another crime, such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.

- Fifteen percent of all homicides with circumstances were identified as having drug involvement.

- IPV was indicated as a contributing factor in 22 percent of homicides.

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N.C. Division of Public Health / www.ncpublichealth.com / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425 / www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov
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